nese regarding those which came to them as bearers of tribute. Far from acknowledging the overlordship of the Ming, however, Tamerlane was planning the invasion of China when (1405) death terminated his career.

In another direction Hung \Vu met with moderate success. Japanese pirates were ravaging the coasts of China, and the Ming dispatched an envoy to Japan to request that these be restrained. Japan was then nearing the end of a long period of civil war, during which there had been much anarchy, and some of the local magnates had become practically independent of the central authority. One of these latter, a scion of the Japanese imperial line, prevented the envoy from reaching Kyoto, the capital. A few years later, this same prince, possibly hoping for Chinese aid in the domestic strife, sent an embassy to the Ming court. The Chinese appear to have accepted it as coming from the Japanese Government, thus opening the way for an official intercourse between the two countries which continued intermittently for years—although not without friction. The pirates were never completely suppressed, partly, at least, because the Japanese authorities were unable to cope with them.

In internal administration Hung Wu showed no very pronounced originality, but, perhaps for the very reason that he was not an innovator but restored traditional Chinese institutions with skill, the country appears to have settled down fairly promptly to its ordinary pursuits. He was confronted with occasional revolts, as have been most Chinese Emperors, but none of them was of unusual consequence. His capital he established at Nanking, where he planned and began the

construction of an enlarged city on magnificent lines. He promulgated a code of laws modeled on those of the T'ang. He adopted the traditional bureaucratic organization of the Empire. Although he modified this by dividing the country into principalities over each of which he put one of his sons as *Wang,* these were in addition to and not a substitute for the usual administrative subdivisions and the regular official hierarchy. However, Hung Wu abolished the premiership and replaced it with a Cabinet (A^{T}rf *Ko),* or Grand Secretariat, made up of several members—an innovation which possibly tended to accentuate the actual power of the sovereign. After some hesitation—first inaugurating them and then for a